

DRAFT
Minutes of the Population Technical Advisory Committee

Friday, March 25, 2005
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Conference Room 110
1717 West Jefferson Street
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Arizona State University – Tom Rex
Department of Economic Security – Linda Strock / Peter Kozy
Department of Health Services – Richard Porter
Department of Revenue – Karen Jacobs
Department of Water Resources – John Fortune
Department of Transportation – Joe Flaherty
Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona – Norm Petersen
Central Arizona Association of Governments – Bill Leister
League of Arizona Cities & Towns – Tom Belshe
Maricopa Association of Governments – Harry Wolfe/Anubhav Bagley
Northern Arizona Council of Governments – Chris Fetzer
Northern Arizona University -- Ron Gunderson (by telephone)
Pima Association of Governments – Sandy White
Rich Gaar, South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization
Western Arizona Council of Governments – Dave Barber
* City of Phoenix – Max Enterline
*Maricopa County Department of Human Services – Christopher K Mrela
*Department of Environmental Quality – David Lillie
*State Land Department – Mila Hill

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Department of Commerce
Department of Education
The Navajo Nation
County Supervisors Association of Arizona
University of Arizona
*Department of Insurance
*Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization

ALSO PRESENT:

Samuel Colón, Department of Economic Security
Susan Kanzler, Department of Economic Security
Brenda Flood, Department of Economic Security
Allen Barnes, Department of Economic Security
Warren Brown, Cornell University, New York

*NON-VOTING MEMBER

1. Call to Order.

John Fortune called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

2. Approval of Minutes of Prior POPTAC Meeting.

John asked if there were any comments on the minutes for the prior meeting. There was no comment. John then called for a motion.

Norm Petersen moved and Linda Strock seconded the motion to approve minutes as written from the January 28th POPTAC meeting. The motion was approved.

3. New business.

Harry Wolfe asked about the POPTAC schedule for preparation of the July 1, 2005 estimates, what method is going to be used to review the data and when will POPTAC be able to provide input. He also asked about whether the Composite Method could be run sooner so that POPTAC review could begin earlier and would like to have documentation for the method in advance.

Peter Kozy responded that DES could put out the information when it has completed its review of methods and the distribution of information would not have to wait for a POPTAC meeting. DES plans to distribute data and documentation on all the methods, but we have to do the analysis first.

4. Introduction of Warren Brown & Initial Report

Warren Brown from Cornell University was introduced as the DES consultant for population estimates. His first project was to compare the department estimates against the census 2000. In all cases, the census 2000 is the standard. He measured the level of error by mean absolute percent error (MAPE), the most common measure of error to evaluate estimates. The state's estimates were better than the Census Bureau's, and they should be better. The changes that have been brought about in replacing the ratio correlation method with the composite method have improved the estimates and produced a lower level of error.

Dr. Brown indicated that the next project will be to experiment with some different ways of using existing data sources to see if we can reduce the error even further for the estimate of 2000 and then carry those forward. The models that are used, the methods that are used are those that are most commonly used by other states. The housing unit method is a very sound methodology. There is nothing wrong with the model. There are just problems with the data. Also, we will look at the data series from the Federal and State agencies that are used in the composite method. We will look at those to evaluate how well they serve as indicator of the population change.

Linda Strock also stated that one of the goals of the DES review is to ensure that the process is transparent. The data methods and documentation should provide sufficient information to allow anyone to replicate the estimate results.

5. County Projections

David Lillie provided the methodology report.

Tom talked about smoothing and suggested that migration rates by age, doesn't necessarily change. There was additional discussion of the merit of looking at the migration numbers in light of what happened in the past ten to twenty years.

Linda Strock said there were several good suggestions and worth following up on but would require additional time to pursue. She also announced that Susan Kanzler had accepted a promotional opportunity to work as a GIS analyst and that DES would be recruiting to fill the projections position.

Dave Barber reported on some Information from WACOGcounties. La Paz didn't like the numbers but did not provide justification. Yuma brought up several items: 1) the refinery coming on line in 2007, 2) parcel splitting that is creating a number of additional lots that are available within the urbanized areas, 3) reevaluation of population density around the military base and Yuma proving grounds, 4) additional five thousand military within the next four years at the Yuma proving grounds, and 5) a port of entry is on the drawing board. He also stated that the Hoover Dam bypass will provide access for people living in Mohave and working in Las Vegas.

6. Estimates Topics

Linda Strock reported that DES plans to develop an audit process in which building permits and completions will be subject to review. Audit selection factors will be based on factors such as high growth, change in growth and consistency with local conditions.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 p.m.

Next meeting June 3, 2005